9/22/71

Dear Ned,

Your letter of 9/20/71 correctly sets forth our understanding. I have read it in haste because of the pressures af a new development, preparing a piecef for the Wash Post, which, I am satisfied, innocently and accidently, twice defamed or hurt me and has offered this for rectification. Do you want to reread the paragraph numbered 5? For example, I think that by "total" what you really mean is our gross receipts as it relates to the unabridged and thatx it relates to the advance, if any, unrealistically. By this I mean that your costs, such as tyoing, should come offf the top, before I get any of it. If you consider these costs to be from your percentage, I consider that generous, but they should be returned to you first, despite my needs. That represents cash you will be putting out. I see nothing wrong with your taking the return of this cost outside the 10%.

Please don't feel foolish about putting such things on paper. All sorts of things we can't now anticipate are possible. It is a correct procedureand hurts neither of us.

Glad Gary can find the time to read what you will do. Frankly, I'd just as leave not. I have no question about either of you, and he knows enough about the case to give you a good evaluation. Any independent reading is always helpful.

Before you go to NYU again, if this thing with Harder/Cowles falls through, let us talk about Lyle Stuart (and if you see himm despite his "liberal" rep, keep your pockets stitched) . Because he is so wretched about money, having cheated me out of a loust $85 in 1966 and had me make a trip to NYV for nothing, relations between us is not good. But he can see a buck- and he knows how to make one. With him esp. having published, in the legal sense, before talking to him, could have some advantages.

If there is to be any foundation, remember there is a local lawyer who is a friend I can consult if a Maryland coproration is preferable.

Because of many interruptions. I have not gotten far in PM I since the last enclosed note.

In your discussions with Harder, Cowles et al, don't forget to ask the size of chapters that might be desired for serialization, and I think you should expect this to be included in gross, in the remote event you arrange it. Generally, someone arranged for the further contraction of serialization.

I suppose Lil and I never really do relax, but we did enjoy your visit.

Sincerely,